

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4509
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
USE OF MINES LYING VACANT AFTER EXPLORATION
VISHNU DEO SAI

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions for alternative use of mines lying vacant after their exploration;
- (b) whether any directions have been issued by the Government for levelling the vacant mines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have received proposals from the State Government especially from the Government of Chhattisgarh for alternative use of such mines;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (c) The question of decommissioning, reclamation and rehabilitation of the mines or part thereof after cessation of mining and mineral processing operation have been engaging the attention of the Government. The matter was considered in the Mineral Advisory Council (MAC) meeting held on 21.9.2002. As decided in MAC, a Committee was constituted for suggesting appropriate changes in Mineral Concession Rules 1960 (MCR) and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988 (MCDR), relating to mine closure. The recommendations of the Committee were considered in the Conference of State Ministers of Mining and Geology held on 22.1.2003. As per the decisions taken in the Conference appropriate changes have been made in MCR and MCDR providing for mine closure scheme for reclamation and rehabilitation of mine after cessation of mining and mineral processing operation. The purpose of the scheme is to restore land, to the extent feasible, to its original condition so that it could be put to normal use.

(d) to (f) The State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were members of the Committee constituted for suggesting changes in MCR and MCDR as mentioned above. In the Conference held on 22.1.2003, all State Governments including Chhattisgarh were invited and based on decisions taken in the Conference, the Central Government has made appropriate changes in MCR and MCDR as mentioned above.